

THE CASTAWAYS

a whole long week we were shut up in the hold, unable to see what course the ship was shaping, whether south or north. Anyhow, it must have been blowing steadily, and the sea did plenty of rolling and chopping.'³

" That is true, John Block, and true, too, that we must have gone a long way; but in what direction ? "

" About that I don't know anything," the boat-swain declared. " Did the ship go off to the Pacific, instead of making for the Indian Ocean ? On the day of the mutiny we were off Madagascar. But since then, as the wind has blown from the west all the time, we may have been taken hundreds of miles from there, towards the islands of Saint Paul and Amsterdam/'

" Where there none but savages of the worst possible sort," James Wolston remarked. " But after all, the men who cast us away are not much better."

" One thing is certain," John Block declared ; " that wretch Borupt must have altered the *Flag's* course and made for waters where he will be most likely to escape punishment, and where he and his gang will play pirates ! So I think that we were a long way out of our proper course when

this boat
was cut adrift. But I wish we might
strike some
island in these seas—even a desert
island would
do! We could live all right by
hunting and